

## DRAFT CHARTER

### National Interagency Biodefense Campus at Fort Detrick Community Advisory Committee

#### PURPOSE

The NIBC Community Advisory Committee (NIBC-CAC) is being formed as a way to improve public understanding of the National Interagency Biodefense Campus and to address public concerns regarding safety and containment procedures at the partner laboratories.

On March 4, 2010, the National Research Council released a report calling for a more proactive, two-way communication effort between USAMRIID and the surrounding community. The report also stated, "If possible, such communication strategies could be coordinated with the two other laboratories of the National Interagency Biodefense Campus." One major recommendation was to create a community group to hear public concerns and help to build trust and understanding.

#### RESPONSIBILITIES

The CAC monitors safety issues and actively seeks and provides accurate information to the community as deemed necessary. Members regularly receive briefings on the operations of NIBC laboratories and are free to question NIBC personnel on any aspect of their activities.

The objectives of the CAC are as follows:

- To seek information and share mutual understanding on issues of public concern;
- To provide an ongoing forum for public input and a sustained information exchange;
- To serve as a mechanism for identifying issues of concern to the community and providing accurate information in order to foster a greater understanding of NIBC missions and research; and
- To monitor lab safety for the Fort Detrick and Frederick community.

#### MEMBERSHIP

The volunteer members of the CAC may be self-nominated or recommended by county or city officials or professional groups. Each prospective member must submit a written application, which is jointly reviewed by the Board of County Commissioners and the Board of Aldermen.

The CAC is composed of the following members:

- 1 County representative
- 1 City representative

- 1 private-sector health representative
- 1 life sciences industry representative
- 5 at-large members (local citizens)

## MEETINGS

The committee elects a chair to run the meetings, which are held quarterly at a neutral location outside Fort Detrick. Meeting agendas are jointly developed by NIBC officials and CAC members. Fort Detrick publicizes the meeting dates and members of the public are invited to attend and ask questions.

The CAC is independent of Fort Detrick and the NIBC. The committee has no direct control over NIBC operations or programs, but acts as an information conduit between Fort Detrick's containment laboratories and the Frederick community.

## REFERENCE

*Evaluation of the Health and Safety Risks of the New USAMRIID High-Containment Facilities at Fort Detrick, Maryland*; Board on Life Sciences, Division on Earth and Life Studies, National Research Council of the National Academies. The National Academies Press: Washington, D.C. (Published 4 March 2010)

## APPROVAL

Signed [at Winchester Hall] on the [date] of [month] 2010:

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